



Office of Early Childhood Education
Tuition Based Preschool Program

Frequently Asked Questions

1. **What is the tuition for 2013-2014?** Tuition for the 2013-2014 school year will be \$11,650, exclusive of meals. Meals may be purchased at the school or brought from home.
2. **How do I enroll my child?** Applications are available for the 2013-2014 school year at each Tuition Based Preschool (TBP) site and on the Chicago Public Schools (CPS) Web site. Parents should complete the application and submit along with a **non-refundable** tuition deposit of \$613 to the school. The school will notify parents that their child has been accepted into the program after February 1, 2013.
3. **How is tuition paid?** Tuition may be paid in full (two week discount available) or through the SMART Tuition Management System. Payment options include paying by check or money order; online credit and debit options are also available. At the present time, SMART charges a **non-refundable** processing fee of \$43 for using their payment system. For additional information, contact Kineatra Rhea-Thomas via e-mail at kdreah-thomas@cps.k12.il.us or call (773) 553-3137.
4. **What is the program schedule?** The TBP program operates five days per week, 10 hours per day from September to June following the CPS calendar. Each school determines the exact hours of operation.
5. **Does my child have to attend for 10 hours?** No; however, children **are** expected to attend seven hours each day to receive the full benefit of the instructional program. Hours may vary at individual schools.
6. **Is there a summer program?** No, CPS does not operate summer TBP programs; however, many schools offer their own summer programs for preschoolers or collaborate with neighborhood agencies.
7. **Will participation in the TBP program guarantee a place for my child in the school's kindergarten?**
No, unless this is your assigned neighborhood elementary school.
8. **What is the class size?** Each TBP classroom must have a minimum of 20 students with an early childhood certified teacher and two teacher assistants.
9. **What is the curriculum?** Most TBP programs use the *Blueprint for Literacy Curriculum* which offers techniques and strategies that teachers may use to promote literacy, including reading aloud, storytelling, talking, and singing.
10. **What are the enrollment requirements?** Children must be at least three (3) but not yet five (5) years old on or before September 1, 2013, and must be **completely toilet trained** when the program begins in September 2013; however, children with an IEP indicating a need for toileting assistance **are eligible** for enrollment if the program meets the requirement of the IEP.
11. **My child may not be ready for kindergarten; may my child remain in the program an additional year?**
No, children who are five years old on or before September 1 of the current year may not participate in the TBP program.
12. **My child will be three years old after September 1, 2013; can my child be enrolled for that year?**
No, children must be at least three (3) years old on or before September 1, 2013.
13. **Where can I get more information?** For more information about the TBP program, please call (773) 534-3846.

